

FIRST
COMICS
DELUXE SERIES

JUNE \$1.75
NO. 12
\$2.45 CANADA

THE BADGER



W. REINHOLD/
M. O'CONNELL-85
LML

Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Larry:

Why does the Badger look like Syd Barrett? Just wondered.

Liz
1601 S. State #1
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Because they both stop in the middle of songs to tune their guitars.

To whomever is responsible:

What's this I hear about you putting out a comic about a badger, done by a bare one and a rine mold? It's absolutely beyond me why anyone would want to read a book about a furry, little, vile creature produced by a naked person and a moldy piece of citrus skin.

What... you say it's a comic about a crazy, but basically heroic man, done by men named Mike Baron and Bill Reinhold? Oh... never mind.

Scott Tilson
123 Vista Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5M 1W2

Dear Mike:

I like the Badger! He kicks butt! Do you write this comic in a bar on Friday night with your friends? It seems like it. I'm glad you spend more time on Nexus... ha ha ha.

If you wanna drive out here to the Old Mill next week to plot the next issue, I'll buy Larry a drink.

Mark Haden Frazer
W39700 Sunnyfield Dr.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

*Mike Baron doesn't have any friends. He spends all his spare time looking for people who don't like his work so he can practice his next **Badger** "plot" on them. Just show up at the Old Mill next week, and he'll probably show you.*

Dear Mike and Bill:

What is this? After twenty pages of the Badger I find you've started a brand new back-up series called Zoomtown. Well, it's a little early to tell yet, but I'm kind of hoping this is only going to be a short series. So far, both story and art seem lame and slow moving, and if you're planning on giving us Road Warrior, please don't waste too much precious space in doing so.

Bill D. Middleton
1010 Connelly
Clovis, NM 88101

Dear Larry:

It didn't take long. You people said in issue #5, when you picked up Badger from Capital, that it would remain Baxter, and the format wouldn't change. I don't know about the rest of the readers, but I pay \$1.75 for 28 pages of Badger. Not just 20 pages, then eight pages of something you call Zoomtown as a filler. Then what does it say at the end? "To Be Continued." Sounds like you're taking \$1.75 and delivering about \$1.00. Leave stuff like Zoomtown for your First Adventures series. Let's make Badger worth \$1.75. It is, after all, a DELUXE series. I think if we are to pay that much, continuity in what pleases us is important. Maybe there is an explanation. Or is it a DELUXE series only at your convenience?

Danny Weaver
1666 Carnut Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89115



*You're absolutely right, Danny - what pleases you, the readers, is important. So let me put it you this way: Would you rather have 28 pages of the **Badger** every other month, or 20 pages of the **Badger** plus eight pages of a new project from the creator of the **Badger** every month?*

And you're right again - we changed the

format of the **Badger**. We made it monthly instead of bi-monthly. Cutting the lead feature down by eight pages allows **Bill Reinhold** to maintain a monthly schedule.

Of course, the first installment of **Zoomtown** appeared in our last bi-monthly issue, and maybe you didn't know about our new monthly schedule. But just for the record, we don't consider it "filler." As a matter of fact, we've gone to a lot of effort to make each episode of **Zoomtown** better than the last. Try it. You'll like it.



NEXT MONTH: The Badger, Ham, Lord Weterlackus, and Judah Maccabee play "Musical Dimensions!"

-- Rick Oliver

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Laurel Fitch, Editorial Coordinator
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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

FRIDAY EVENING--
WINTER IN WISCONSIN.

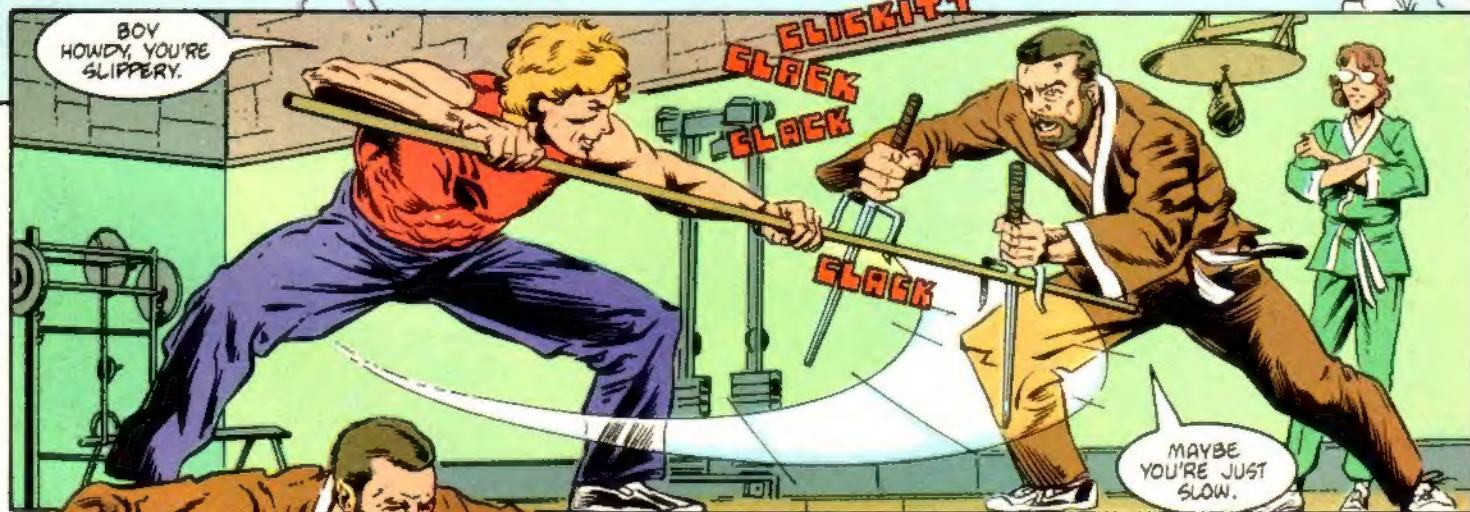
REPEAT--THERE
IS A TRAVELLER'S ADVISORY
OUT FOR THE ENTIRE UPPER
MIDWEST. ALL MAJOR HIGHWAYS
HAVE BEEN CLOSED. FORECASTERS
PREDICT TWELVE TO SIXTEEN
INCHES OF SNOW BY
MORNING.

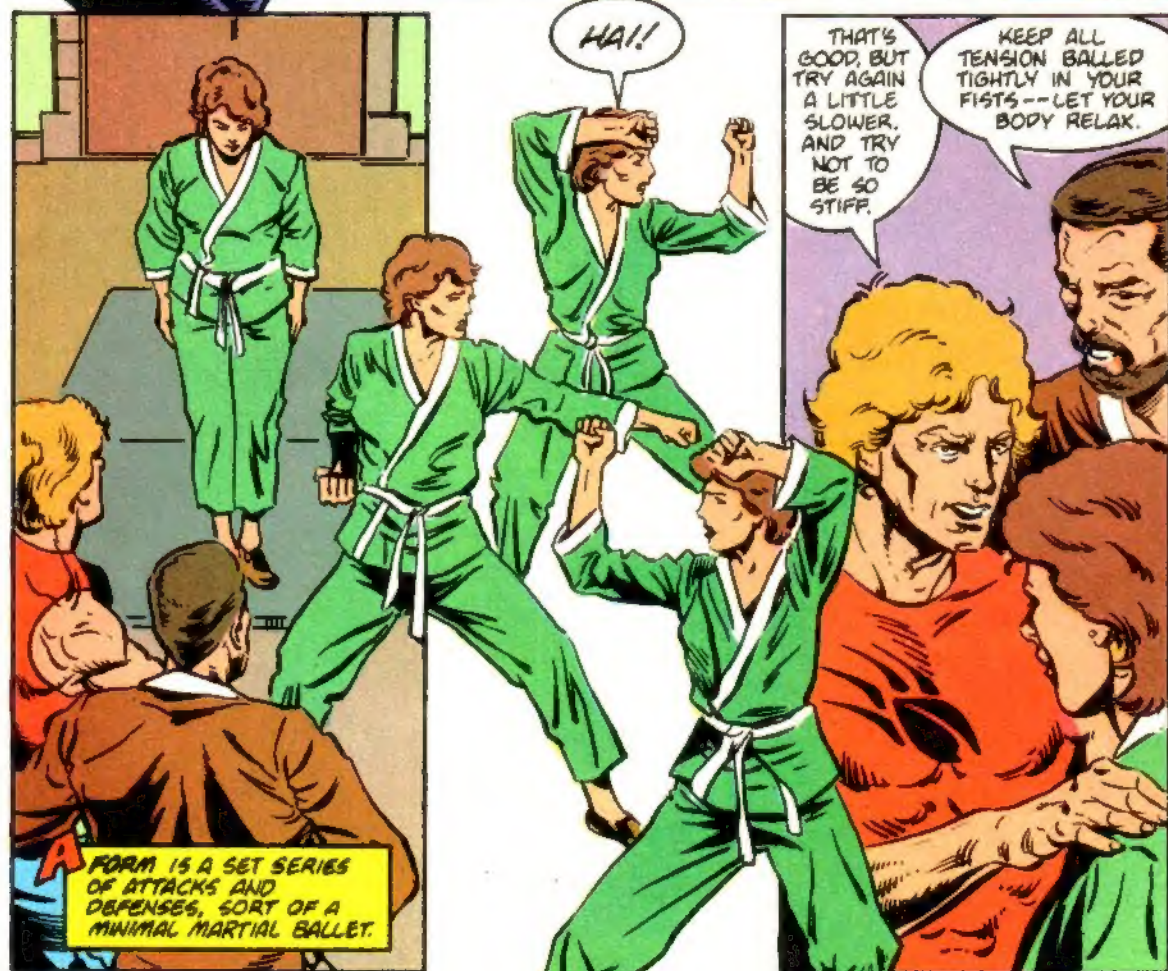
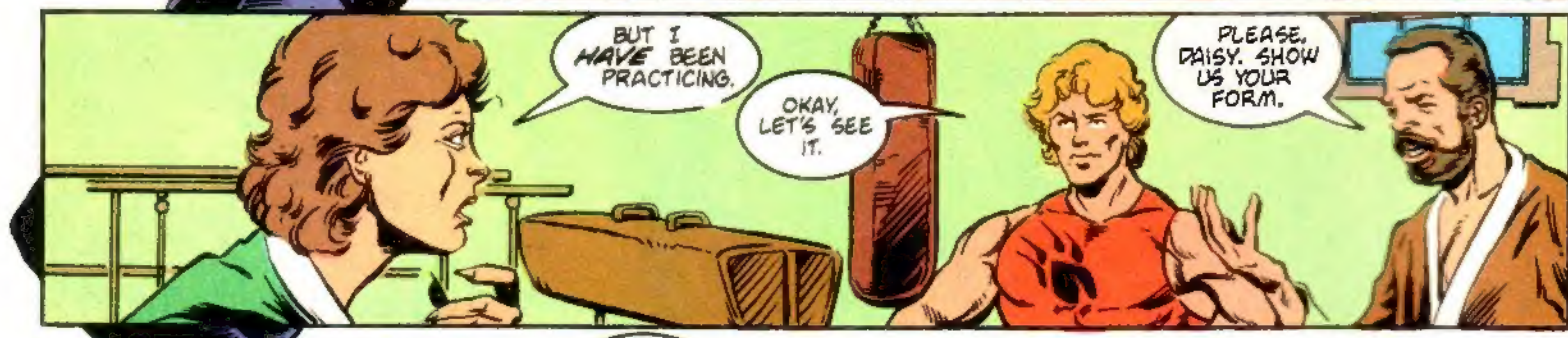
BADGER

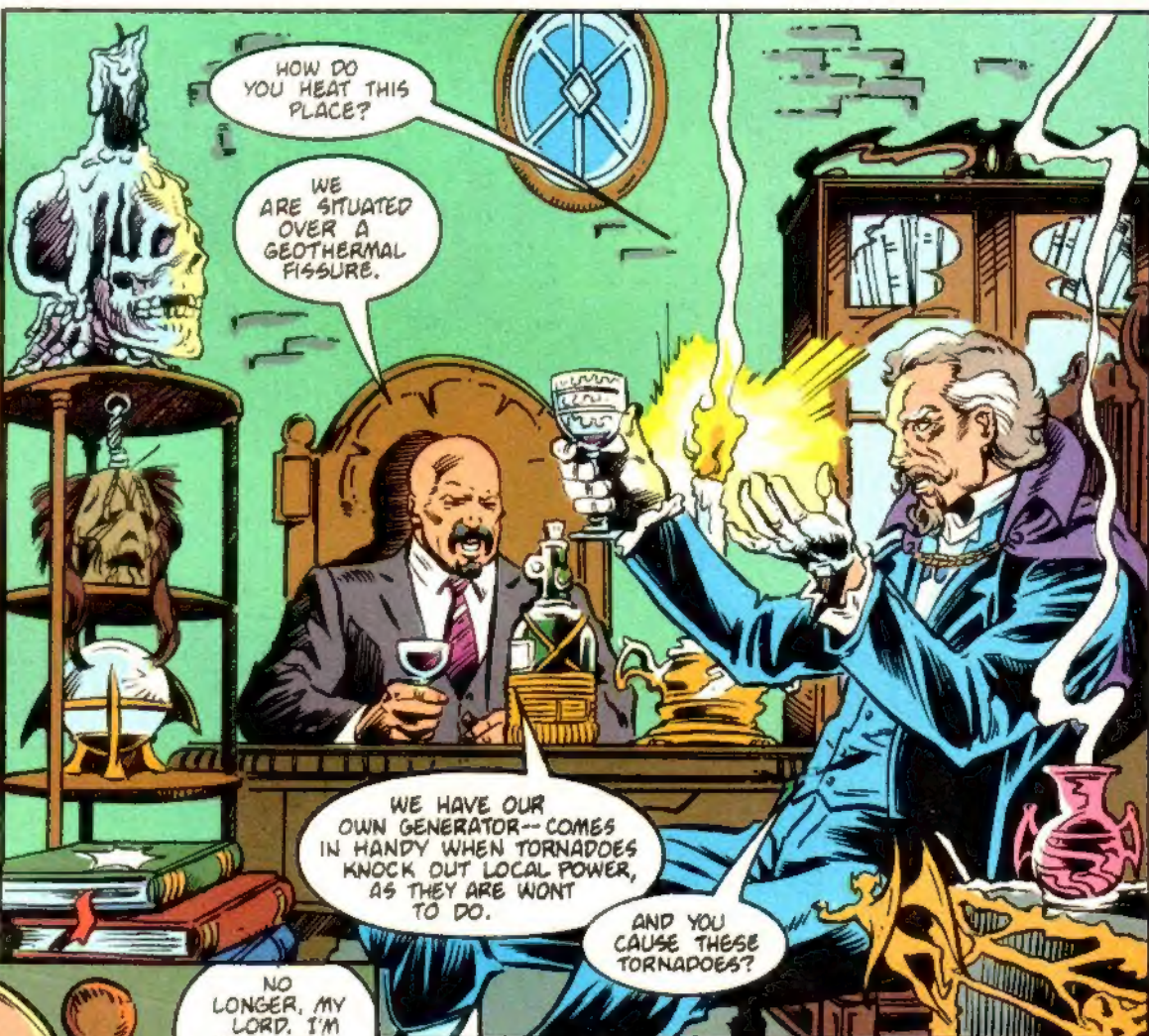
RED SNOW

MIKE BARON
WRITER
BILL REINHOLD
PENCILLER
KEITH WILSON
INKER
WILLIE SCHUBERT
LETTERER
LINDA LESSMANN
COLORIST
RICK OLIVER
EDITOR

CLICK
CLACK
CLICKITY







I CANNOT EXPLAIN IT, MY LORD, BUT I AM PREPARED TO MAKE AMENDS, IF ONLY MY LORD WILL PUT A PRICE ON THE LAST WITHDRAWAL...

YOU CANNOT BUY MY MAGIC WITH YOUR MONEY.

YOUR MAGIC IS GREAT--BUT I HAVE SPENT SEVERAL LIFETIMES MASTERING THESE ARTS. I AM NO NOVICE TO BE LECTURED!

THIS IS MY HOME, YOU ARE MY GUEST.

UVA!

TO EARTH? IT IS NOT MY DOMAIN. WHAT DO I CARE?

NOW YOU ARE MY GUEST.

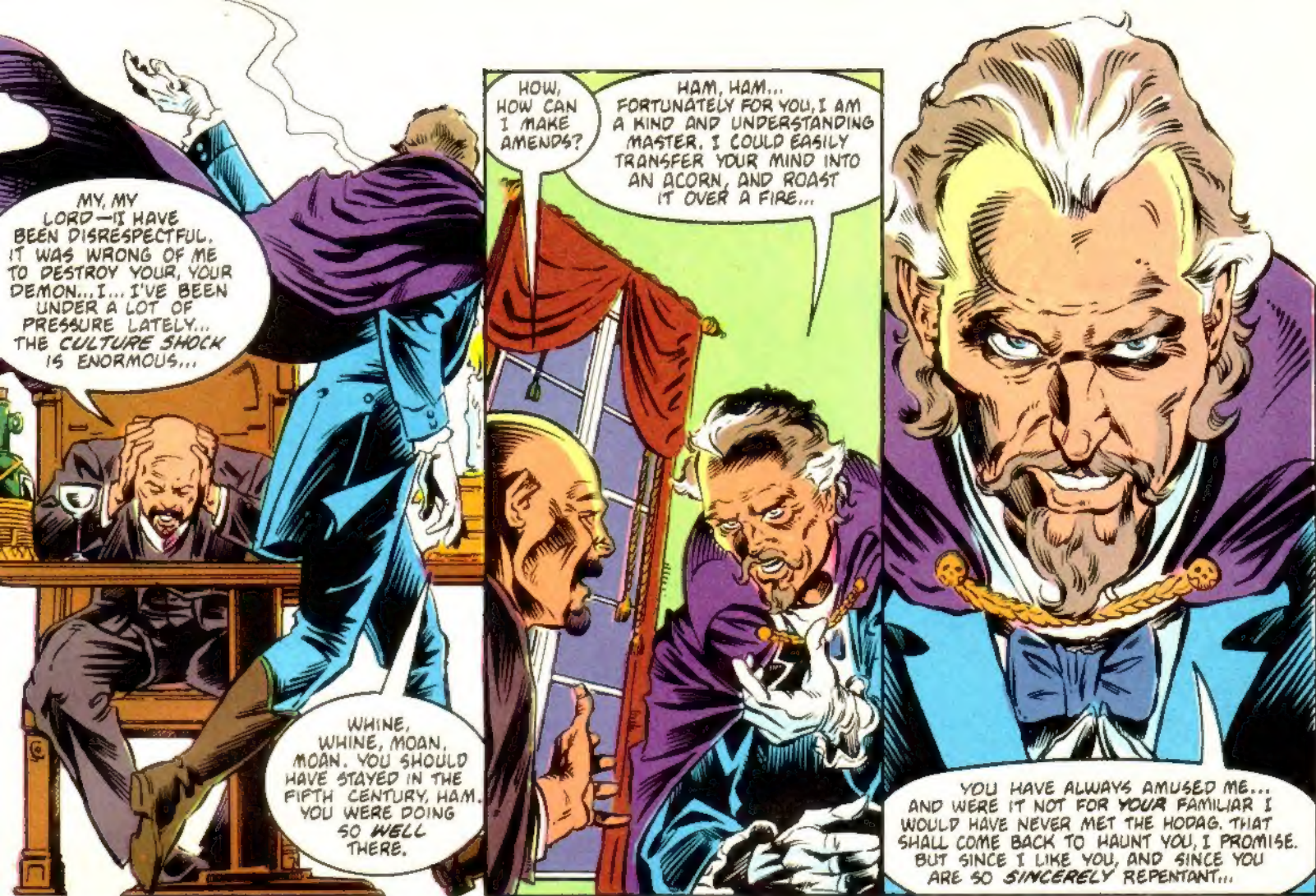
BUT MY LORD-- YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE. SURELY YOU'D WANT THE PLACE INTACT--AS INTACT AS POSSIBLE...

PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.

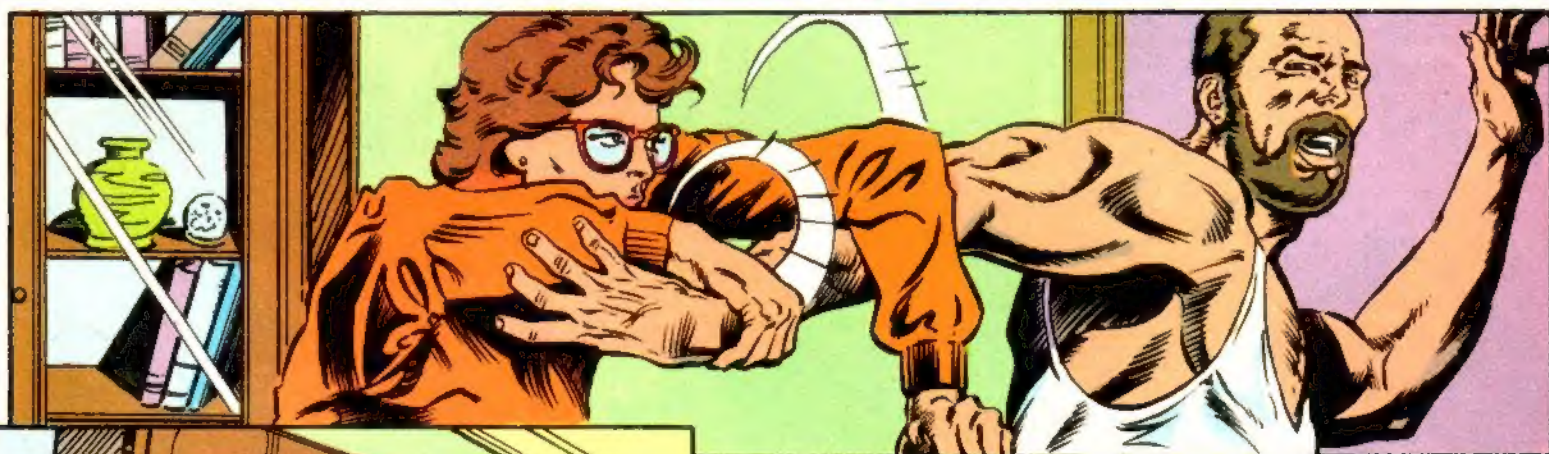
MY LORD-- THIS ISN'T WISE... THINK OF THE REPERCUSSIONS...

UVA!

ACTUALLY, I PREFER YOUR PLACE. YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT WINE CELLAR.









MUST YOU BRING THIS CREATURE IN HERE?

LOOK, YOU GOT A FAMILIAR, I HAVE A FAMILIAR. NOW WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THOSE FREELoadERS?

AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, LARRY, PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I'M NOT SO SURE I CAN MOVE THE HODAG.

A CANDID ADMISSION, SIR. MS. FIELDS TELLS ME HIS SKIN IS IMPERVIOUS TO CUTLERY...

YAH

THEREFORE-- AH! YOU SHALL DEAL WITH HIS LORDSHIP AND LEAVE THE HODAG TO ME.

YOU GOING TO USE A SPELL ON HIM?

ZAP HIM OFF INTO LIMBO?

NO, I SHALL USE ONLY THE MOST MODEST OF MY OWN ORIGINAL MAGICKS. I WILL NOT ALLOW LORD WETERLACKUS TO DEFEAT ME BY DRAWING ON HIS POWER.

RATHER, I SHALL PERMIT THE HODAG HIMSELF TO SUPPLY THE MEANS OF HIS DOWNFALL...

YOU'D BETTER THINK ABOUT THAT, LARRY. THE HODAG HAS THAT AURA ABOUT HIM...

WHAT AURA IS THAT?

THE AURA OF INVINCIBILITY.

LET HIM PIT HIS AURA AGAINST MINE. I HAVE YET A TRICK OR TWO UP MY SLEEVES.

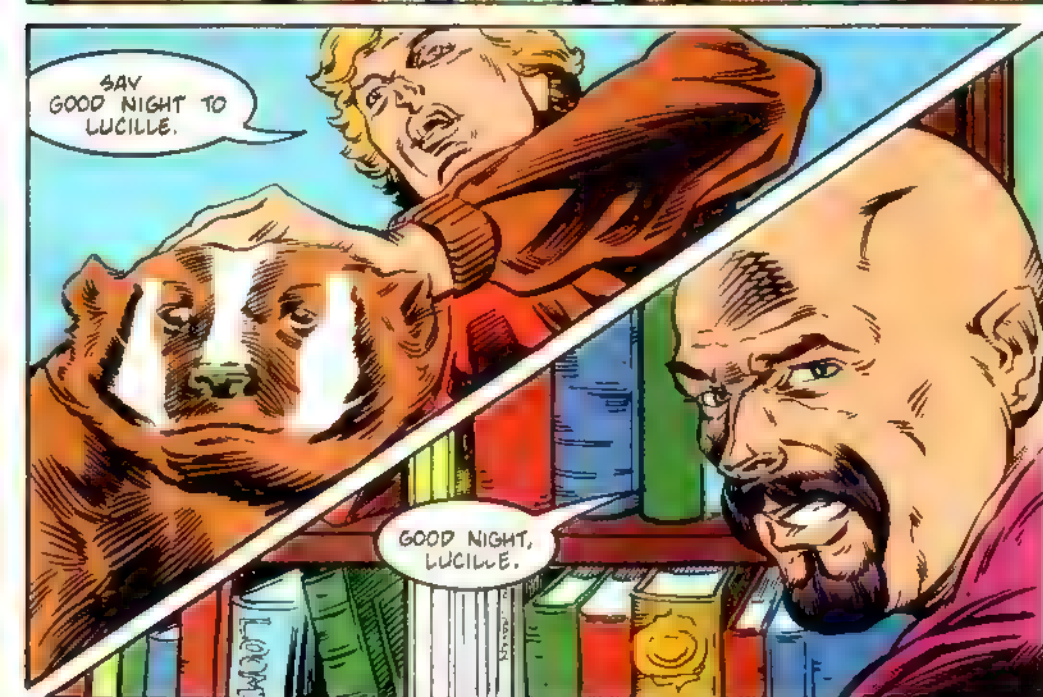
YOU GOT BIG SLEEVES.

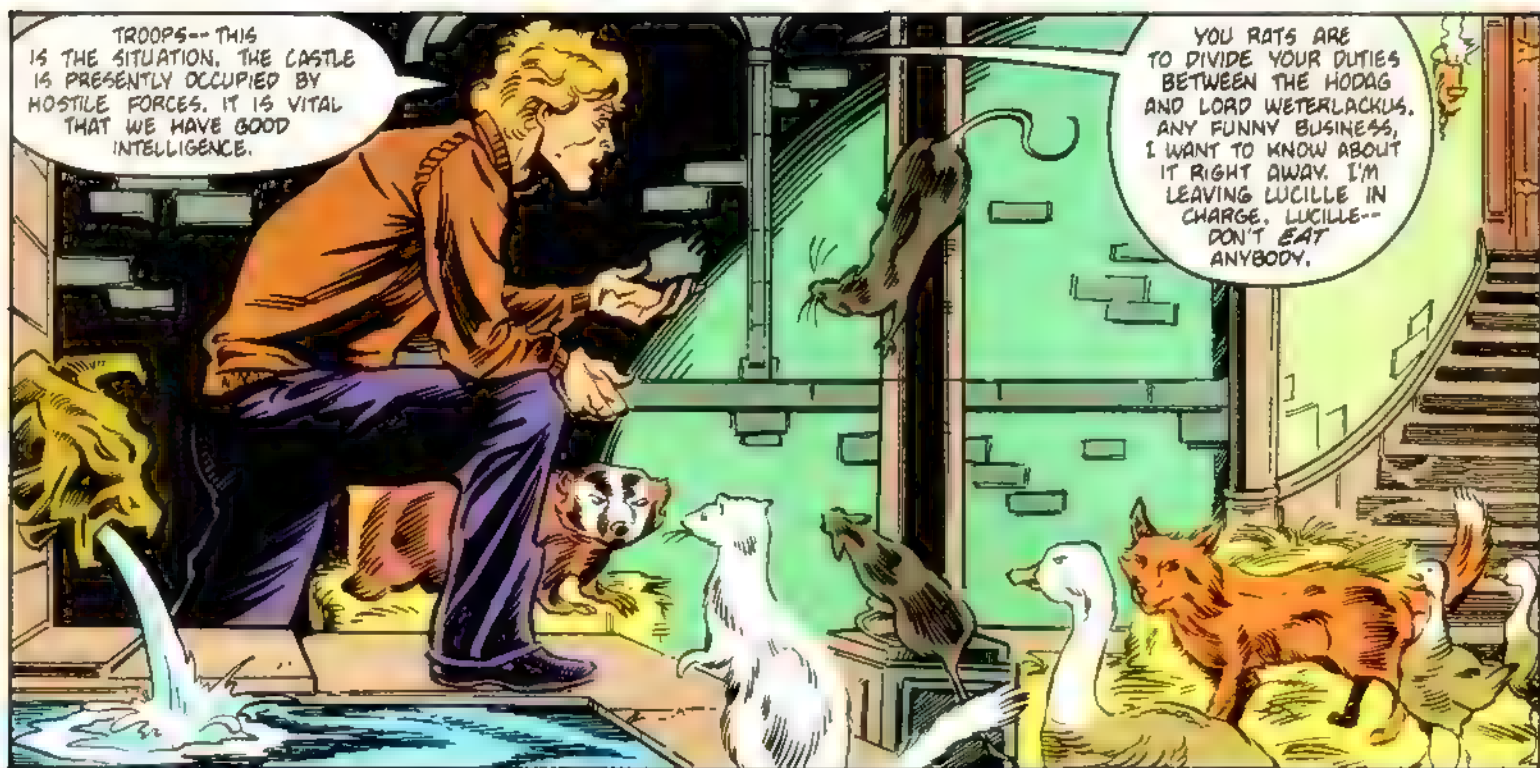
IMPERVIOUS TO CUTLERY IS HE? MAYHAPS HE IS NOT USING THE RIGHT CUTLERY.

LARRY-- YOU GOT A MAGIC KNIFE AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME? LET ME HAVE IT!

NO, I HAVE QUITE ANOTHER IMPLEMENT IN MIND FOR HIS LORDSHIP...

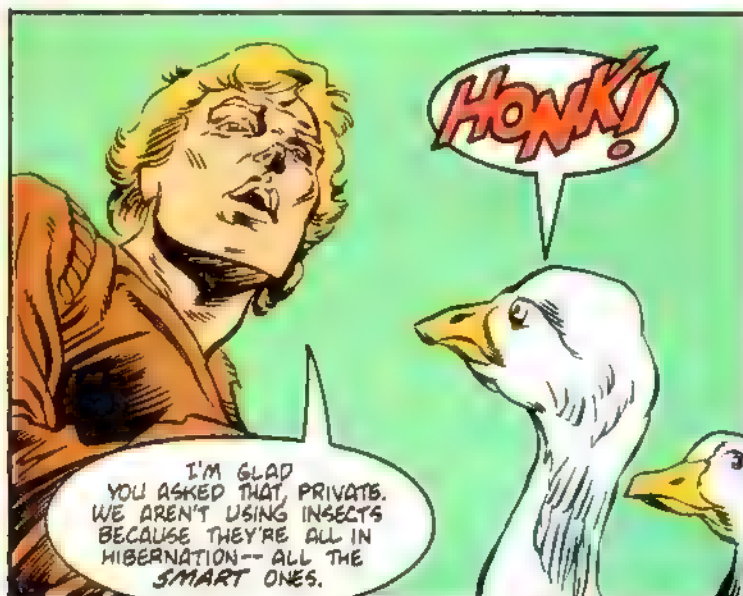
WHAT?





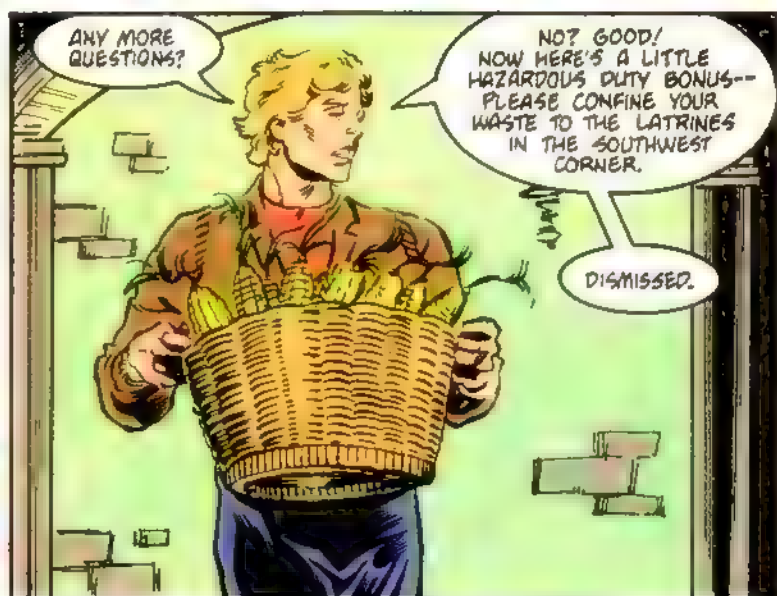
TROOPS-- THIS IS THE SITUATION. THE CASTLE IS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY HOSTILE FORCES. IT IS VITAL THAT WE HAVE GOOD INTELLIGENCE.

YOU RATS ARE TO DIVIDE YOUR DUTIES BETWEEN THE HODAG AND LORD WETERLACKUS. ANY FUNNY BUSINESS, I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT RIGHT AWAY. I'M LEAVING LUCILLE IN CHARGE. LUCILLE-- DON'T EAT ANYBODY.



HOWK!

I'M GLAD YOU ASKED THAT PRIVATE. WE AREN'T USING INSECTS BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL IN HIBERNATION-- ALL THE SMART ONES.



ANY MORE QUESTIONS?

NO? GOOD! NOW HERE'S A LITTLE HAZARDOUS DUTY BONUS-- PLEASE CONFINE YOUR WASTE TO THE LATRINES IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER.

DISMISSED.

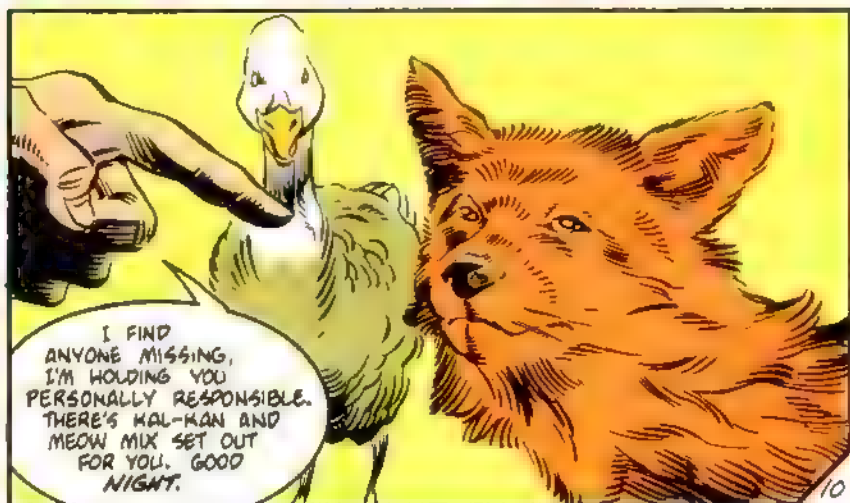


KAK-KAK-KAK!

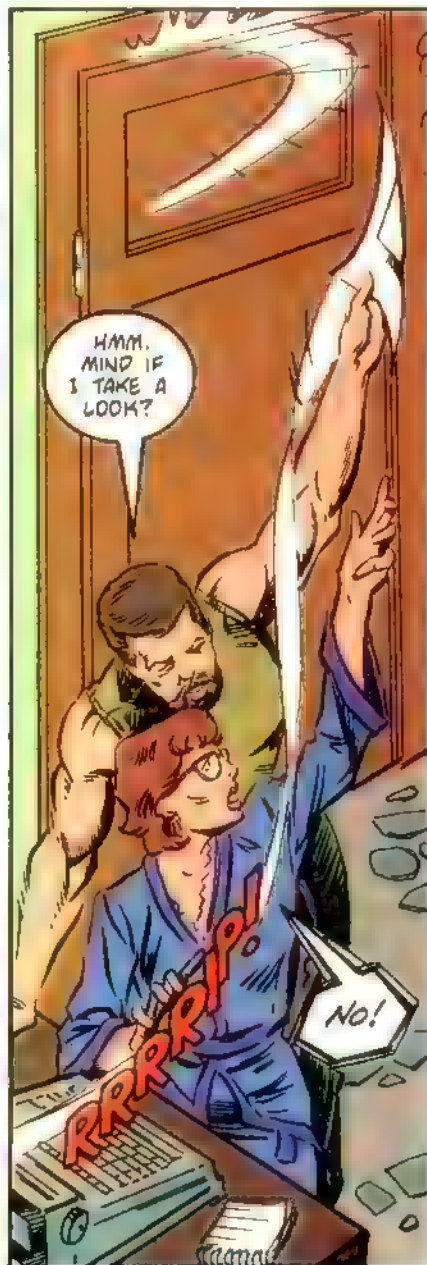
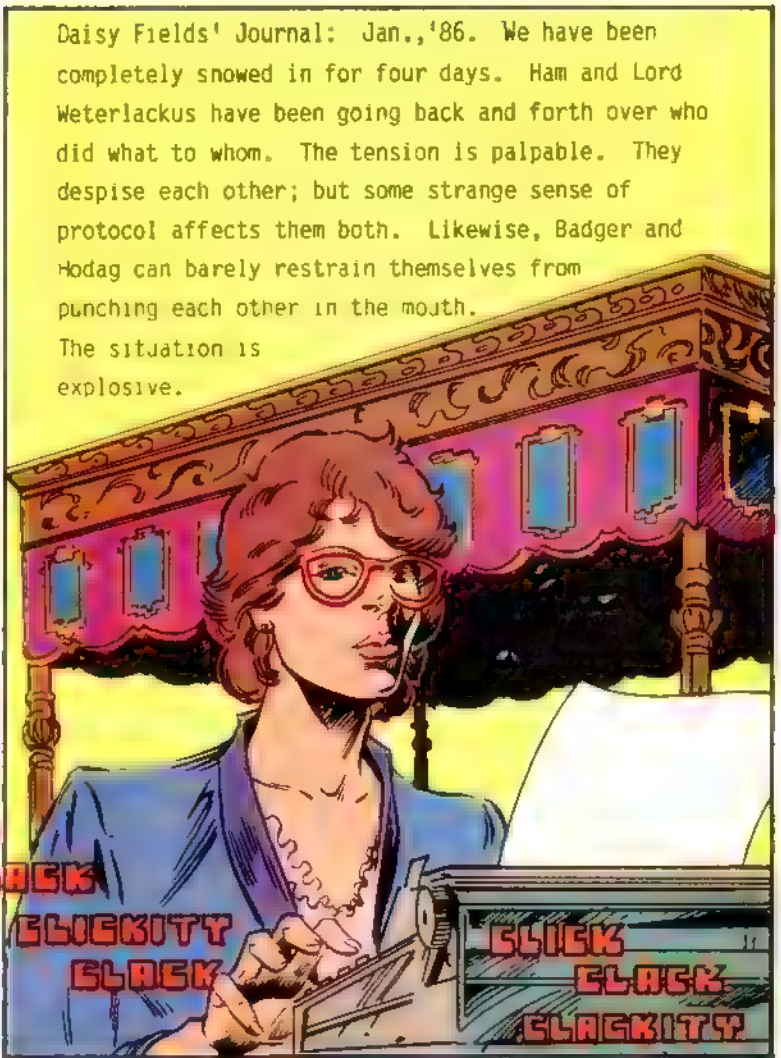
I HEARD THAT PRIVATE!

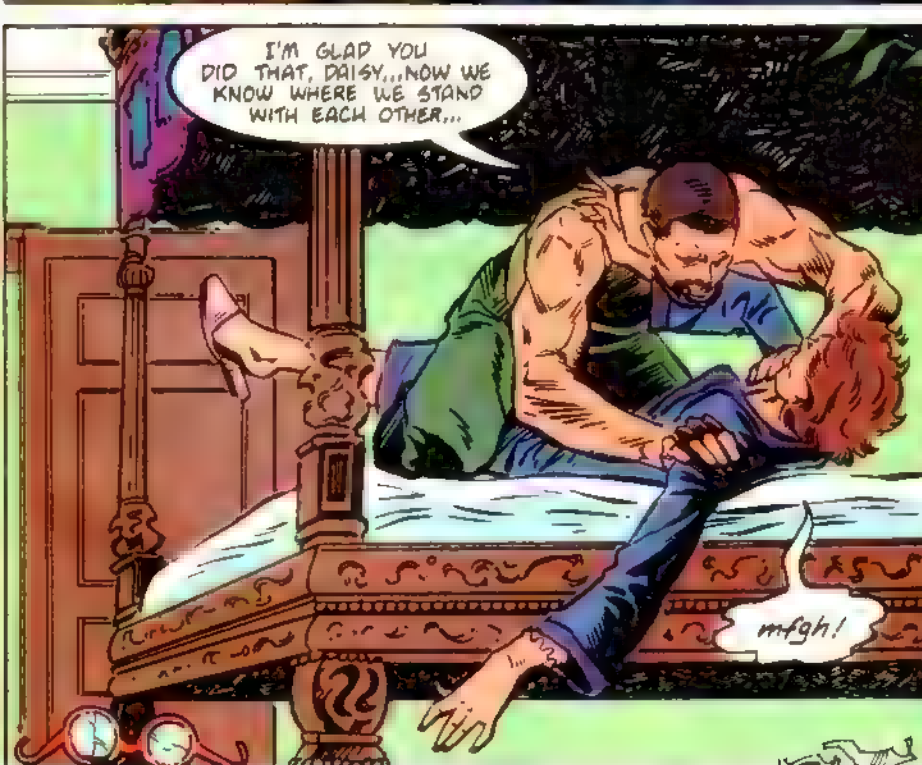
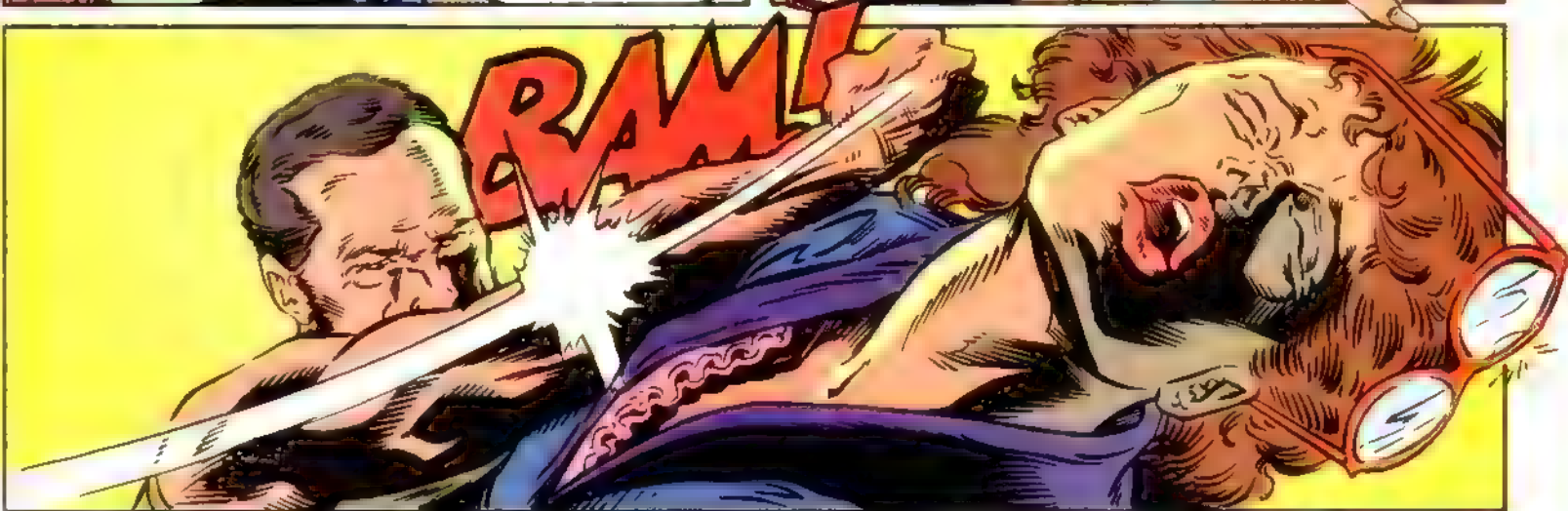
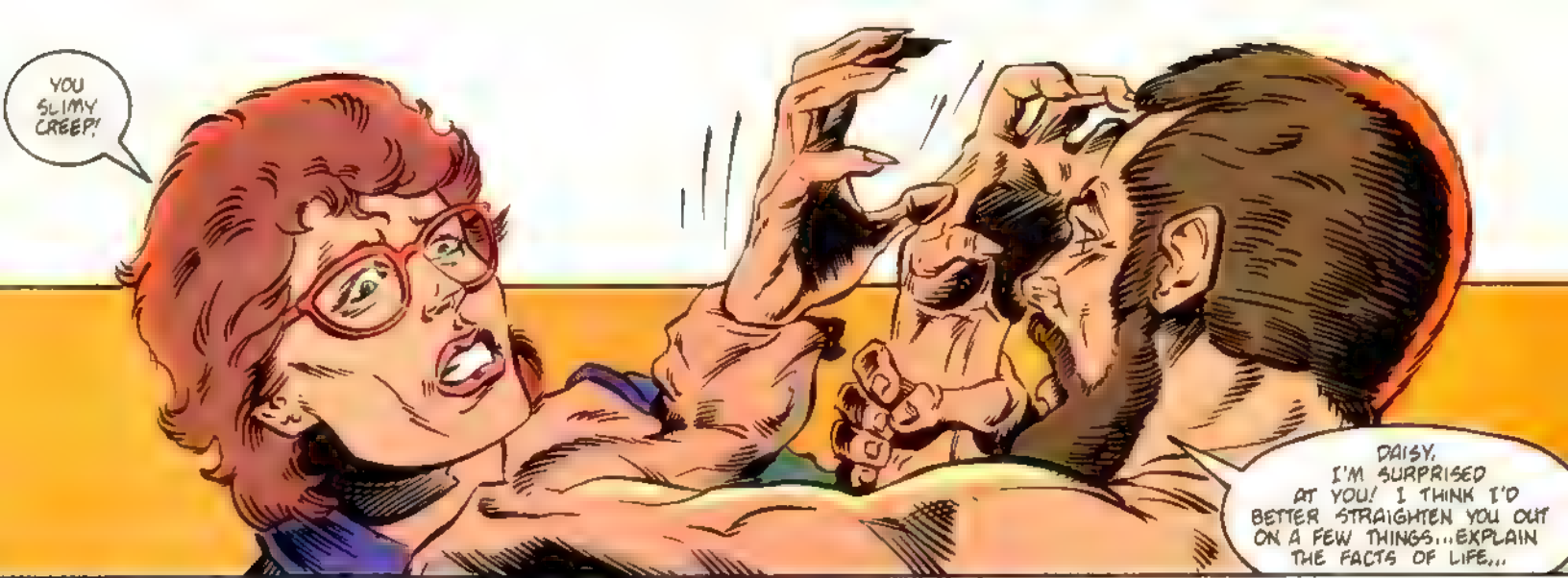


BELIEVE ME, THERE ARE A LOT OF ANIMALS OUTSIDE STARVING BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FORAGE IN THE HEAVY SNOW. THEY'D BE GRATEFUL FOR A LITTLE DRIED CORN.



I FIND ANYONE MISSING, I'M HOLDING YOU PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE. THERE'S KAL-KAN AND MEOW MIX SET OUT FOR YOU. GOOD NIGHT.

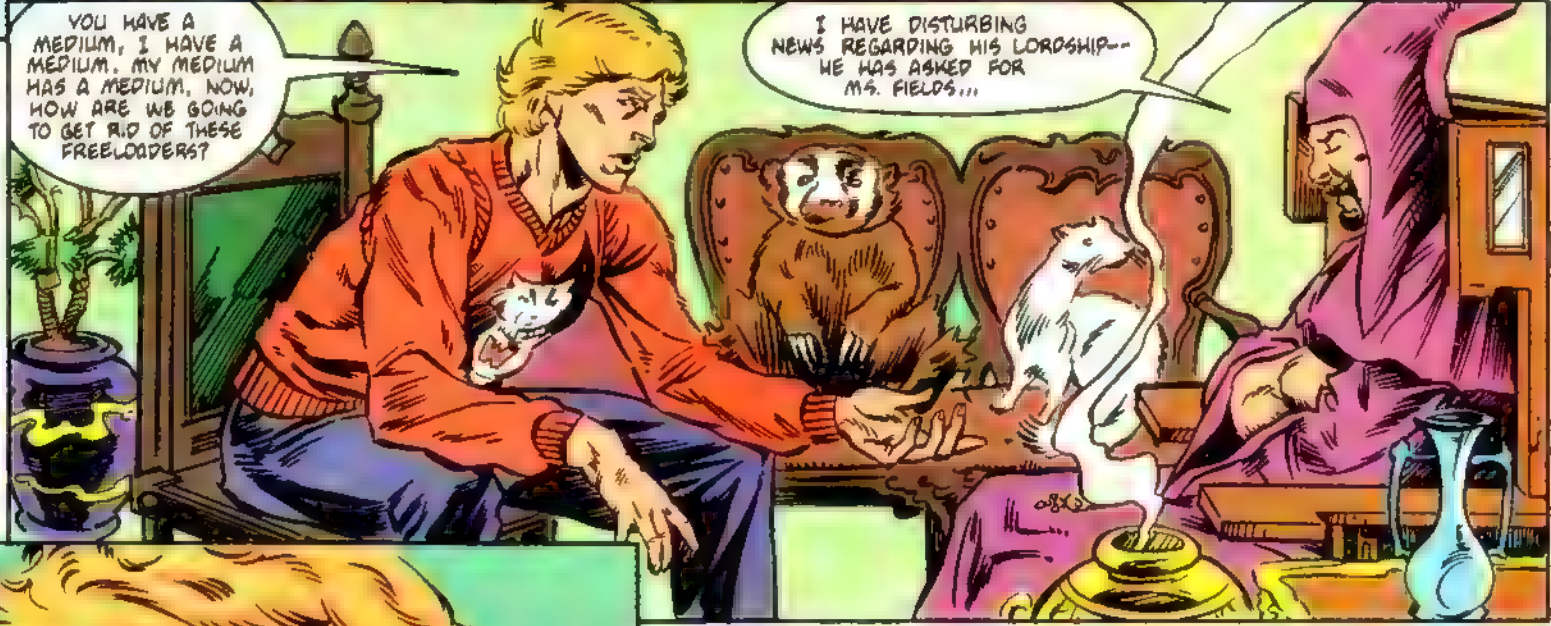






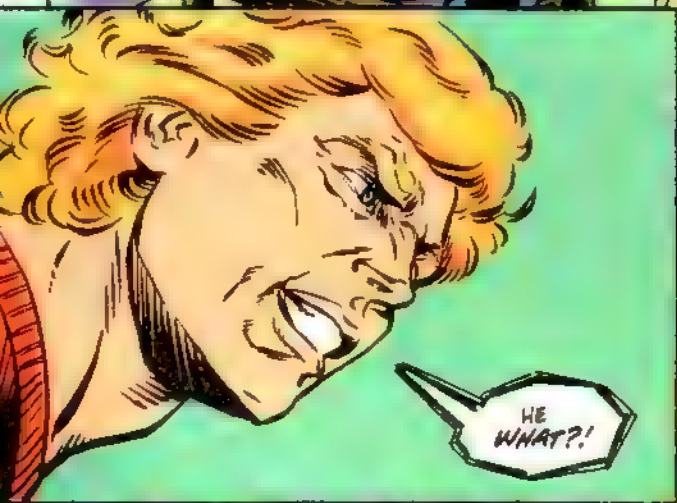
YOU BRING THESE CREATURES IN HERE?

LOOK, LARRY--

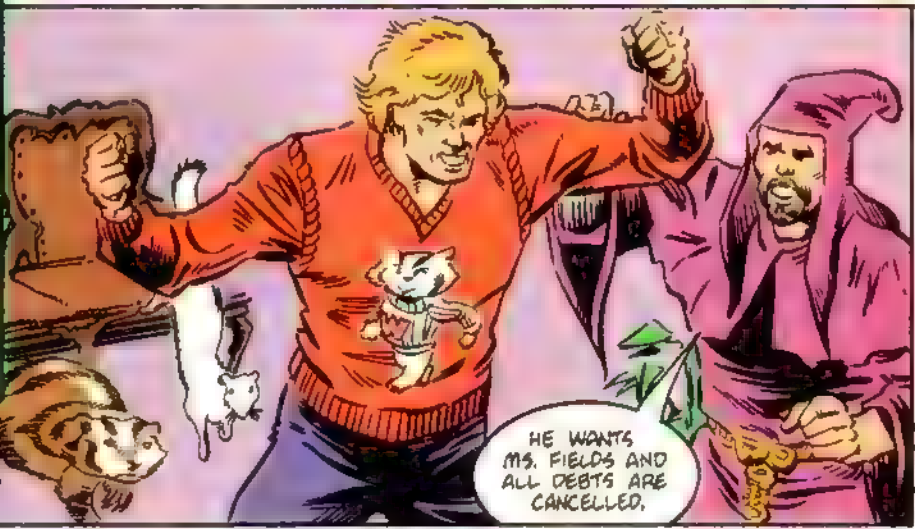


YOU HAVE A MEDIUM, I HAVE A MEDIUM. MY MEDIUM HAS A MEDIUM. NOW, HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET RID OF THESE FREELoadERS?

I HAVE DISTURBING NEWS REGARDING HIS LORDSHIP-- HE HAS ASKED FOR MS. FIELDS...



HE WHAT?!



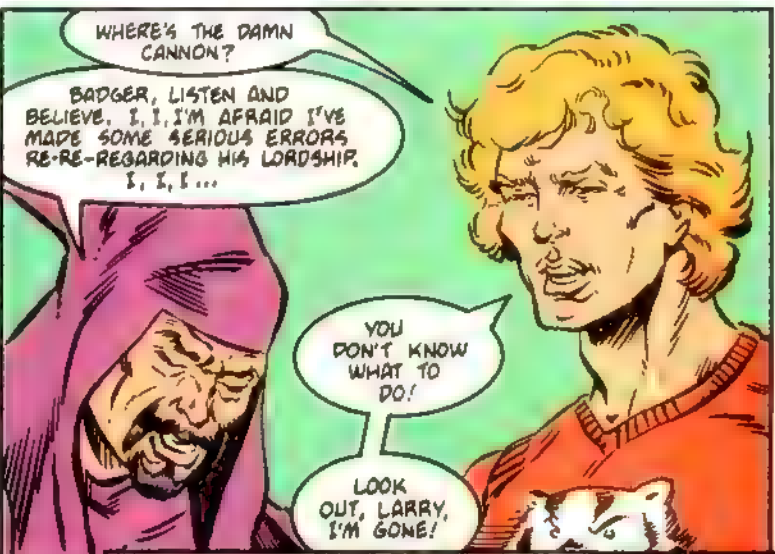
HE WANTS MS. FIELDS AND ALL DEBTS ARE CANCELLED.



THAT'S IT, MAN. GIVE ME THE DAMN WATER CANNON. THEY'RE OUT OF HERE.

HOLD, MY FRIEND. IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS. HIS LORDSHIP IS JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

I APPRECIATE YOUR EAGERNESS, BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH HIS LORDSHIP AT THIS TIME.



WHERE'S THE DAMN CANNON?

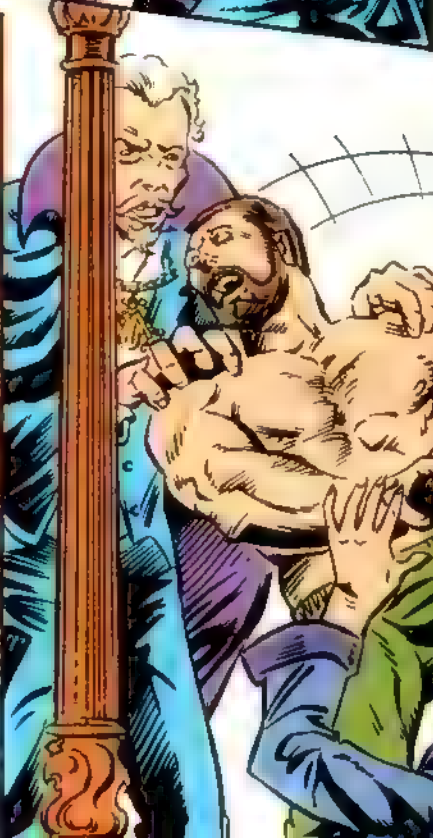
BADGER, LISTEN AND BELIEVE, I, I, I'M AFRAID I'VE MADE SOME SERIOUS ERRORS RE-RE-REGARDING HIS LORDSHIP. I, I, I...

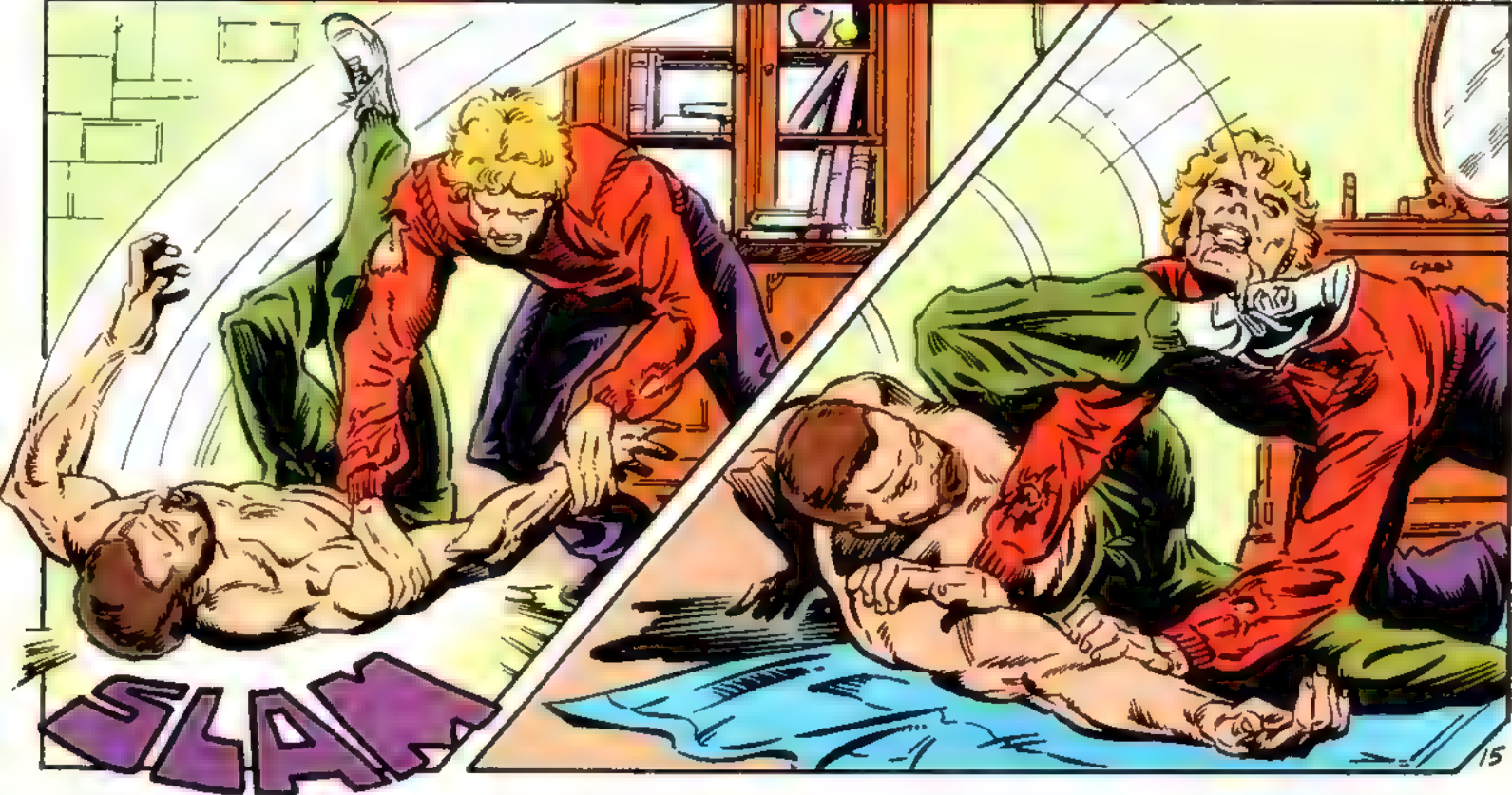
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

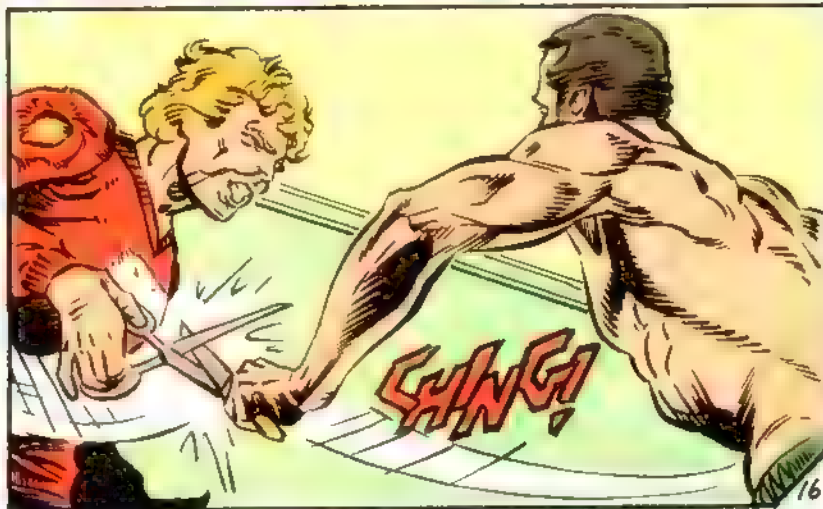
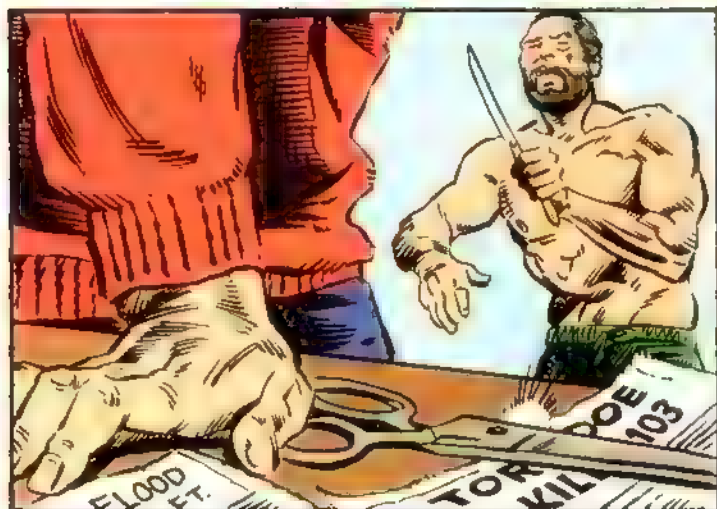
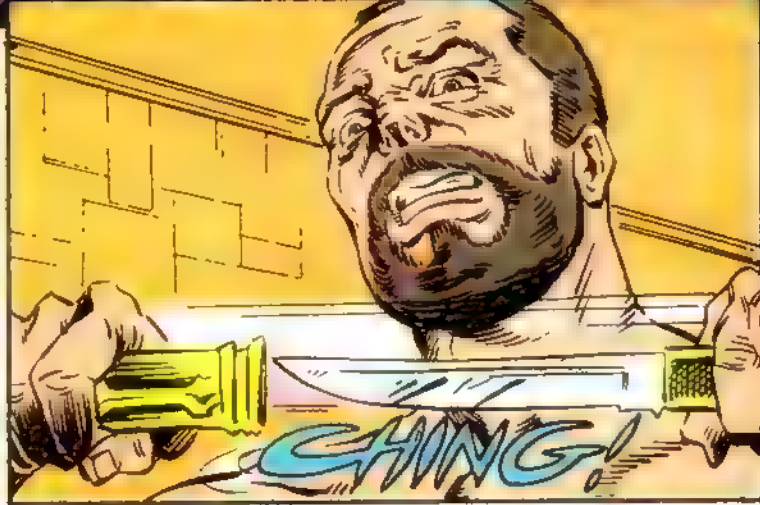
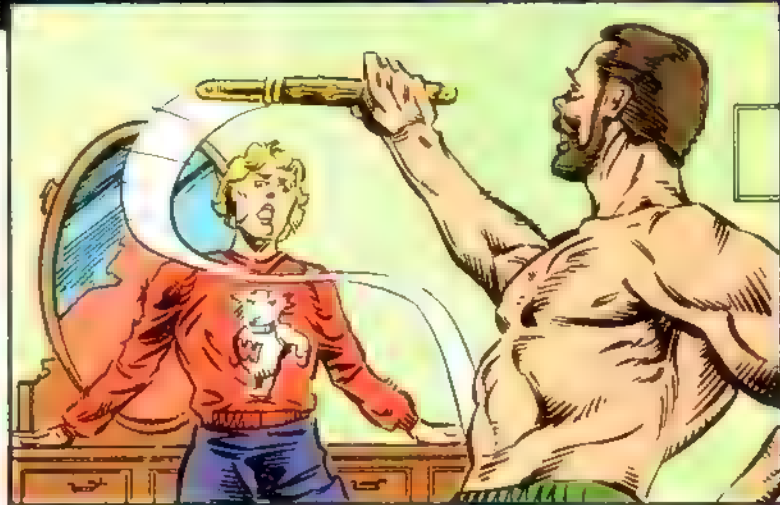
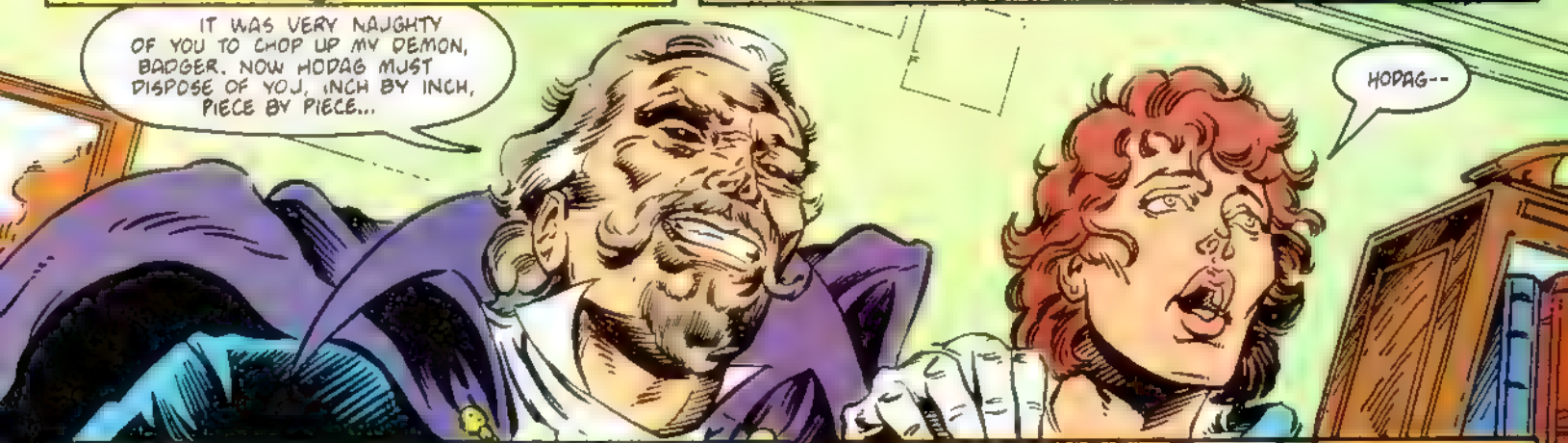
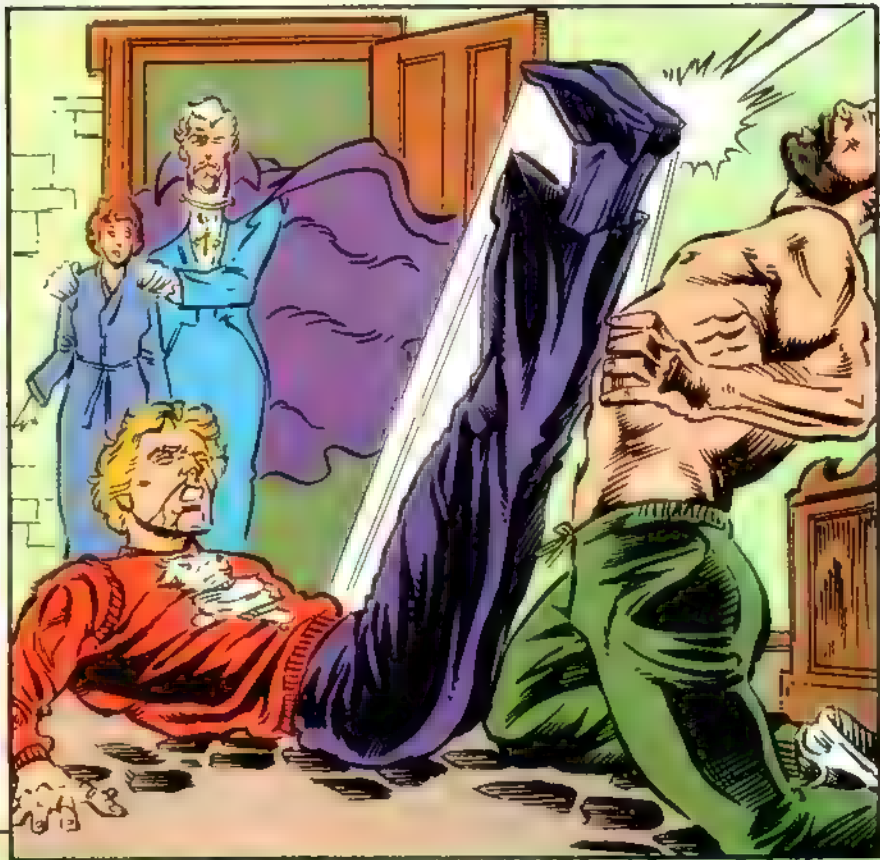
LOOK OUT, LARRY, I'M GONE!

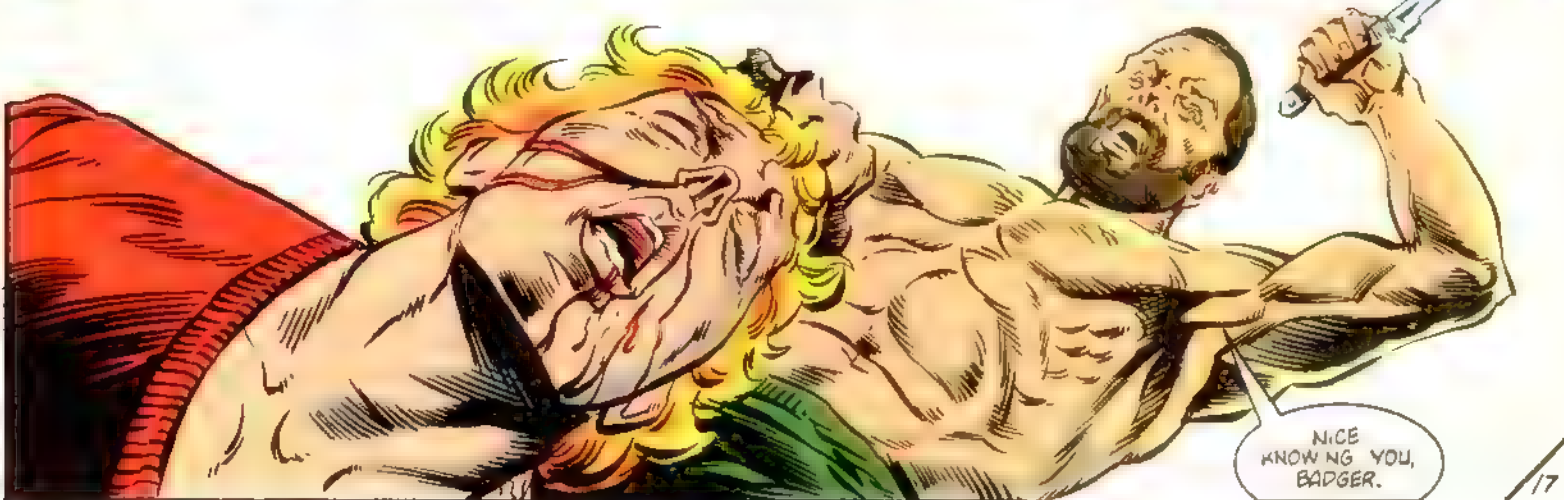
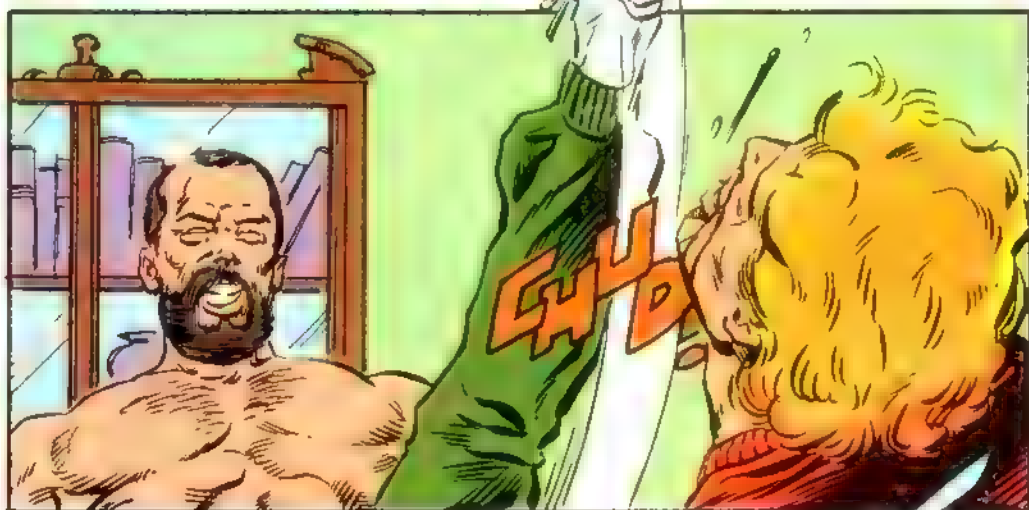
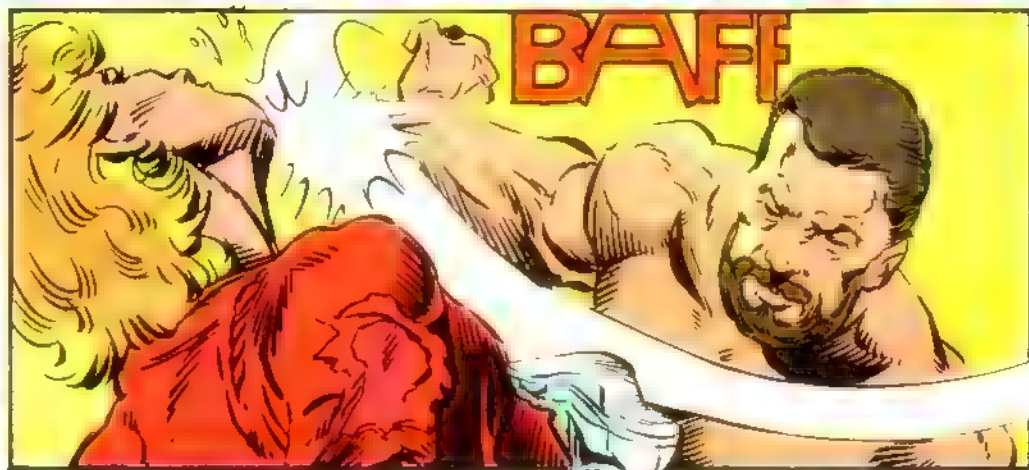
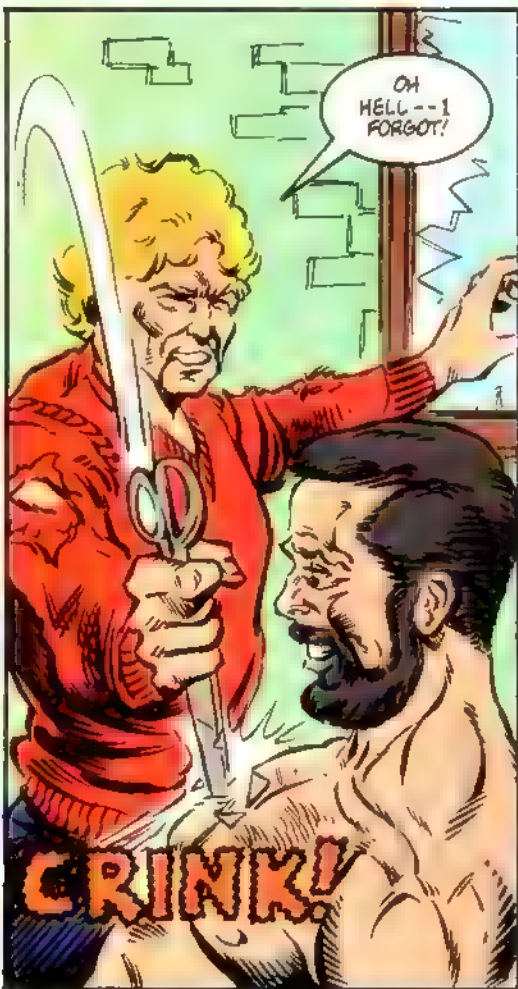
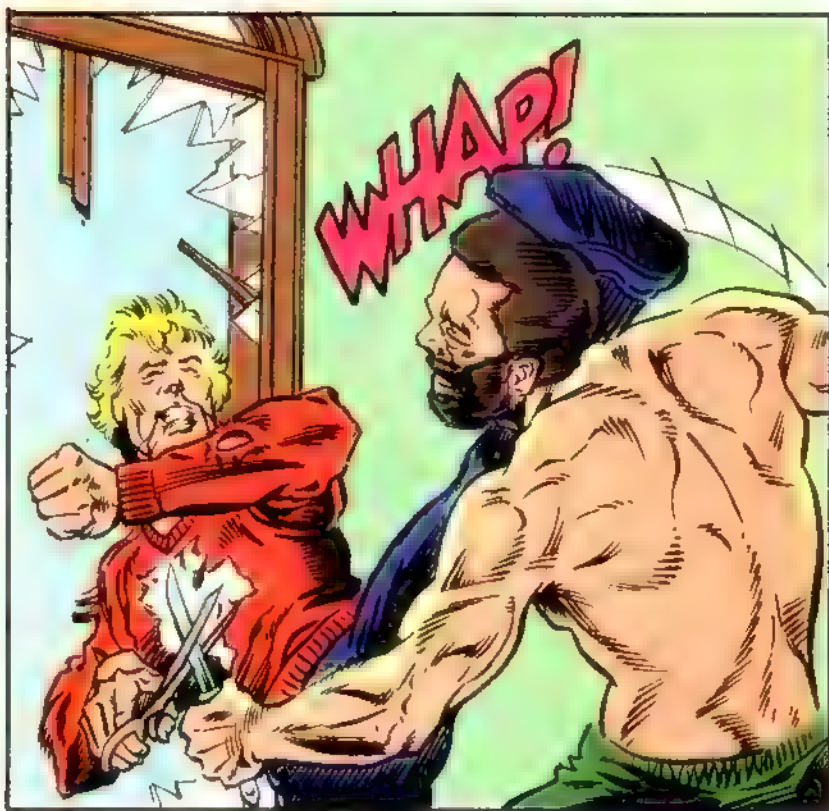


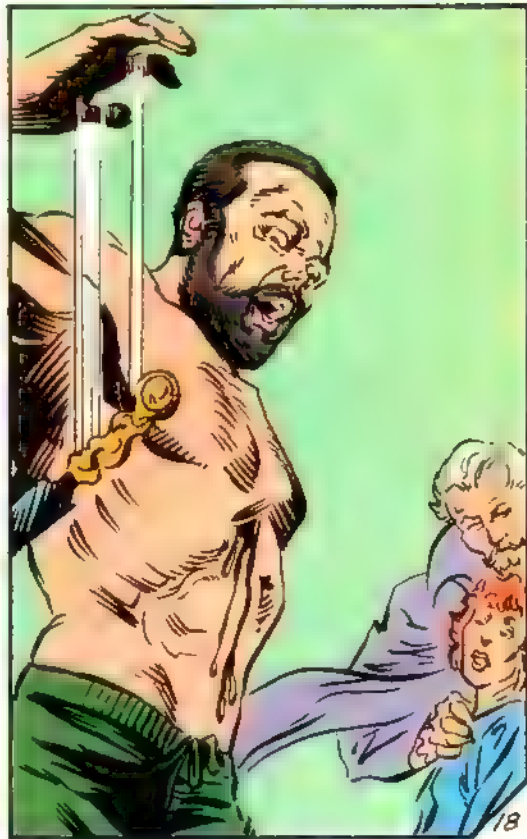
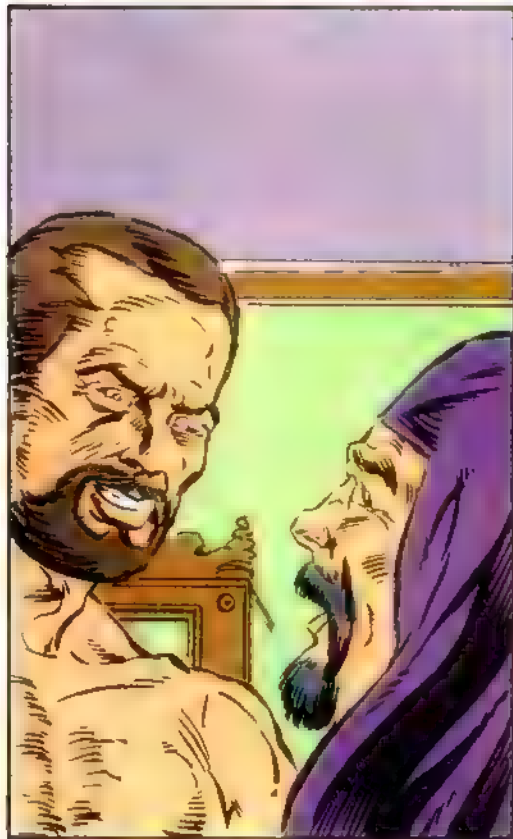
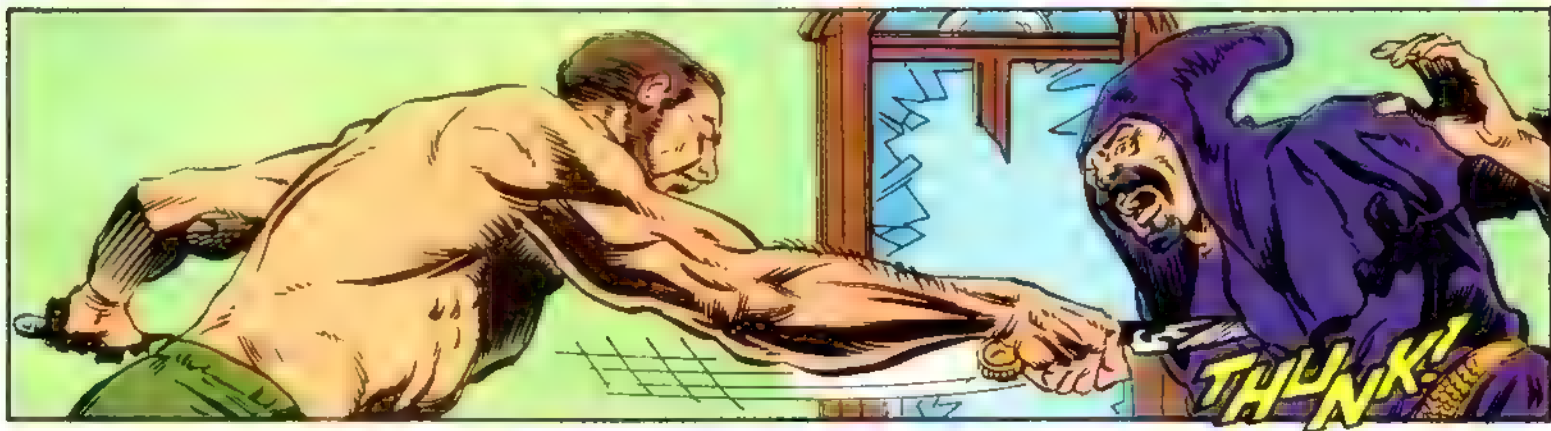
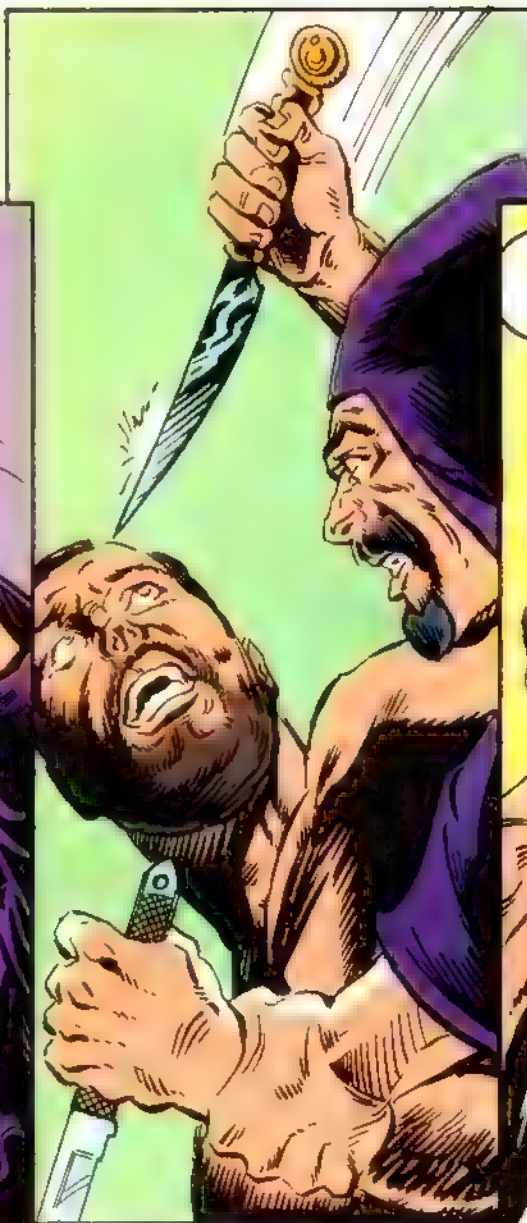
SQUEE--
SQUEE--

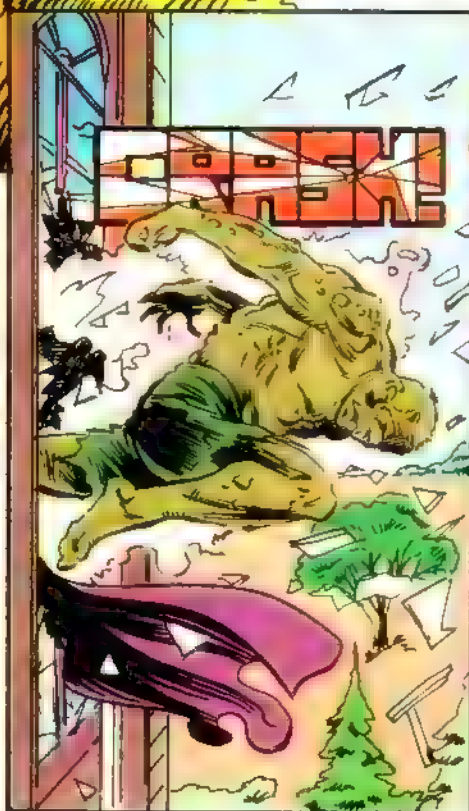
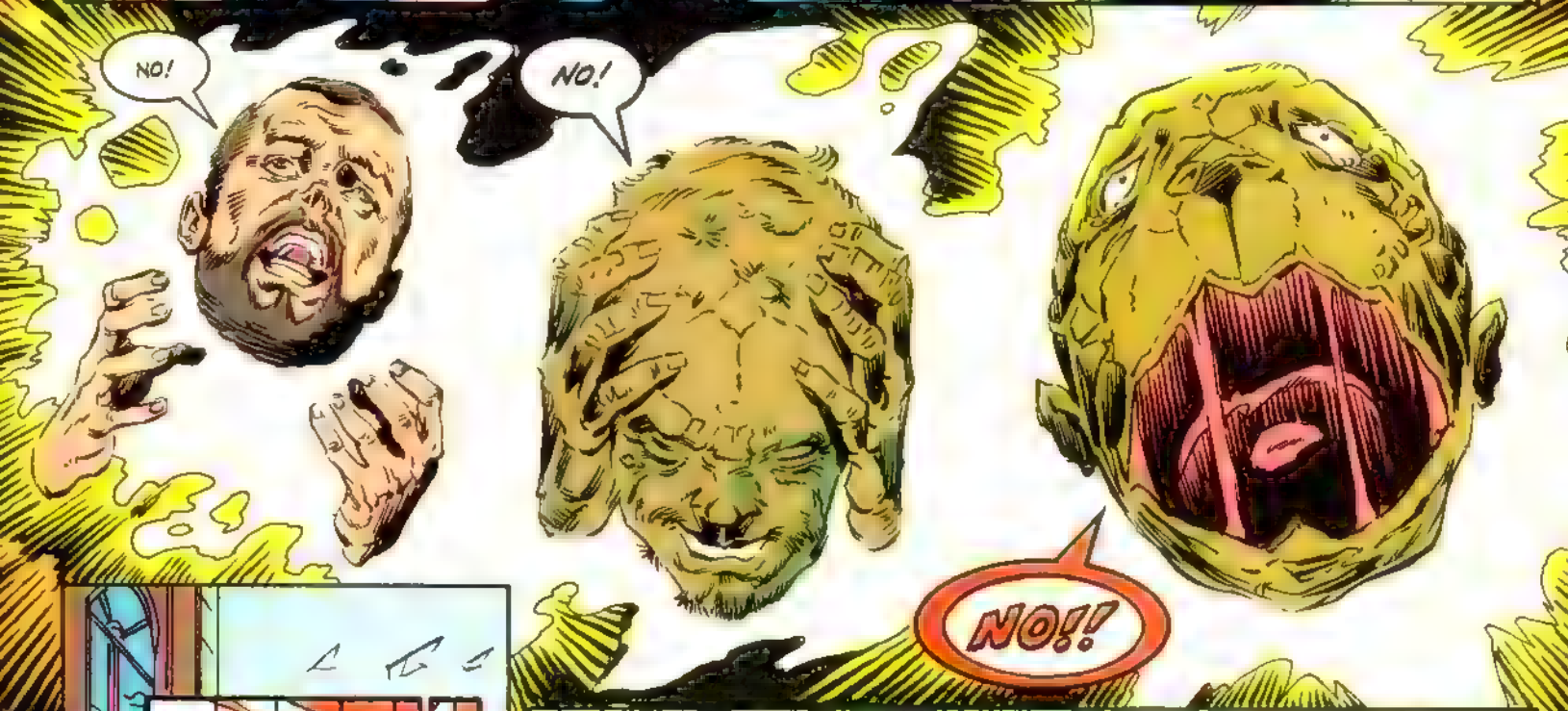


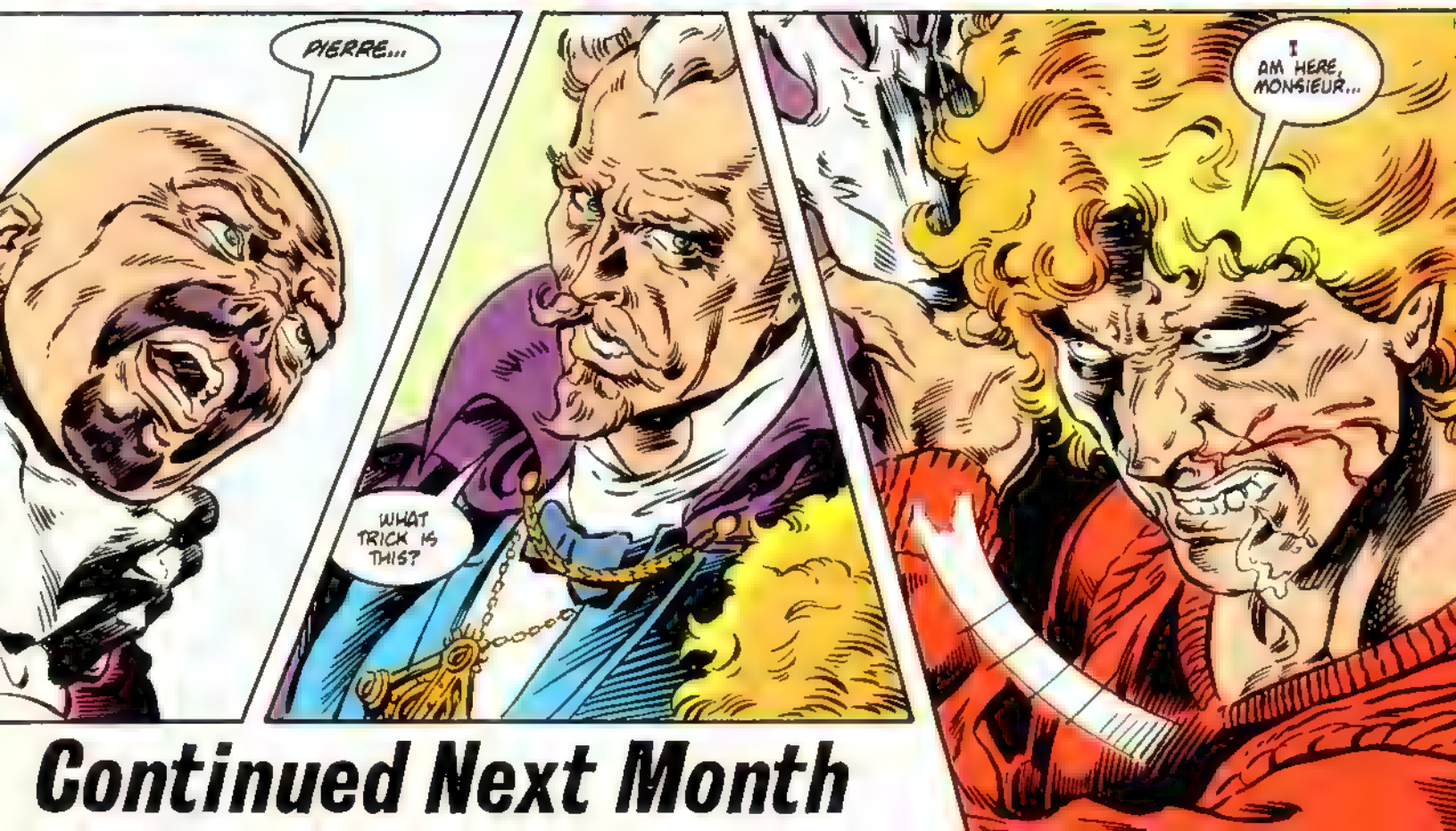
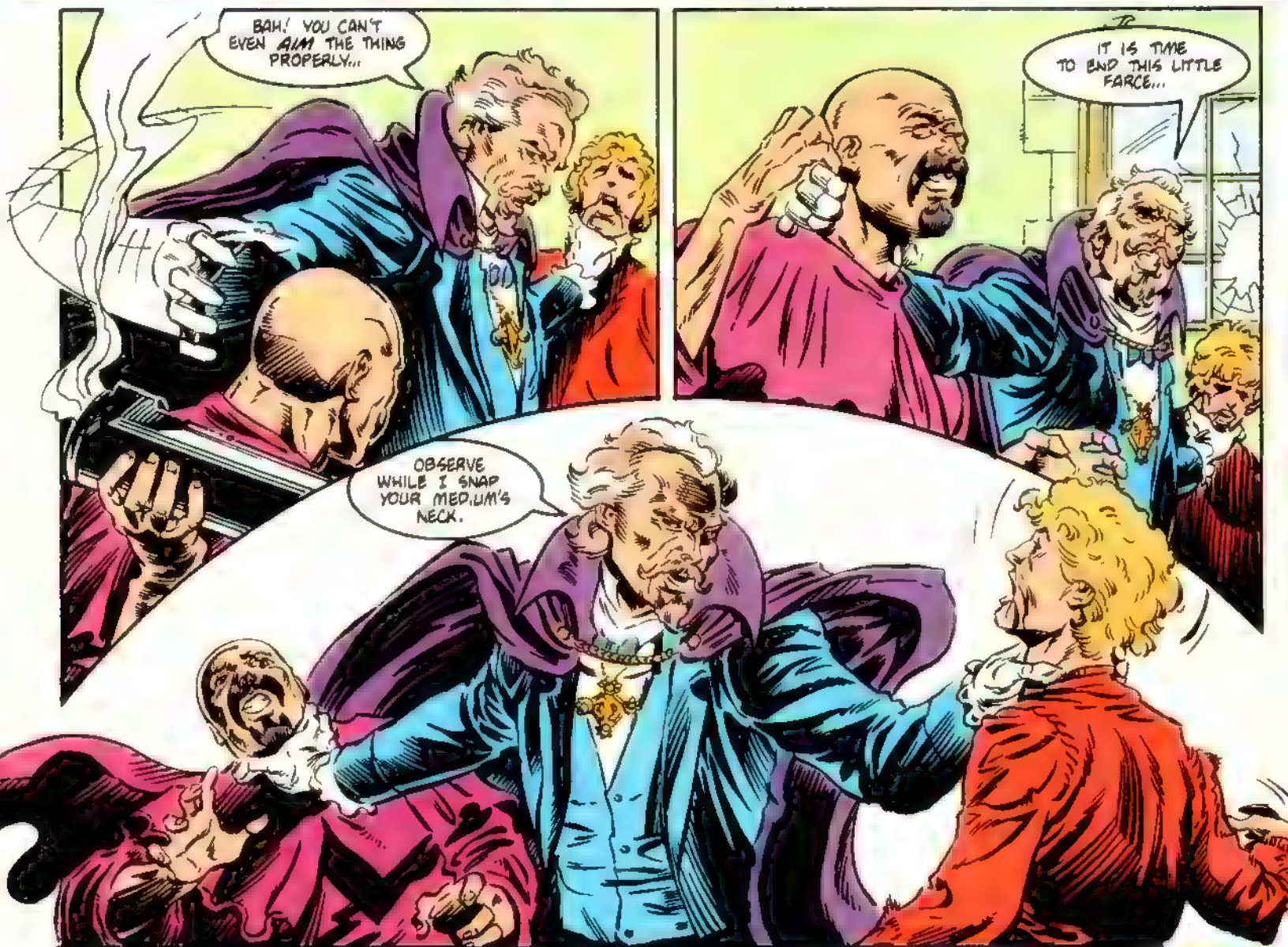
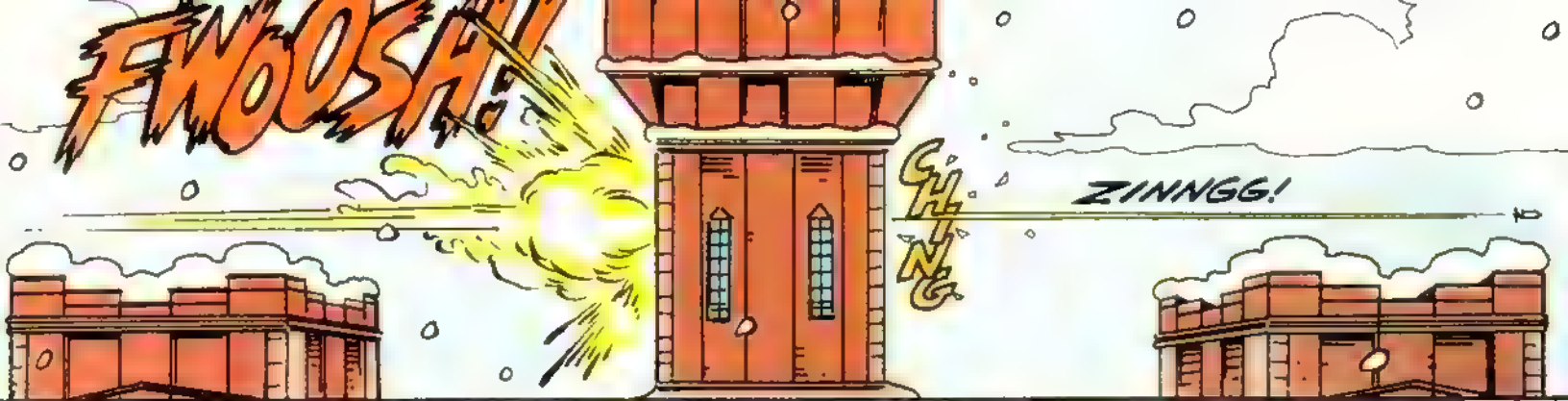












Continued Next Month

ZOOMTOWN

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, PRISCILLA. BY THE TIME THAT ROAD PHAROAH SHOOT US DOWN.

SHOOT US DOWN?!

JUST TAKE IT EASY. SLIP INTO THIS HARNESS.

MIKE BARON
WRITER
RON WAGNER
PENCILLER
GARY MARTIN
INKER
WILLIE SCHUBERT
LETTERER
LINDA LESSMAN
COLORIST
RICK OLIVER
EDITOR

GET OUTTA HERE! I'M NOT DIVING INTO A PARACHUTE! NO WAY! WHY DID I EVER LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS?

HA HA! IT'S NOT A PARACHUTE-- IT'S PART OF MY TWO MAN ULTRALITE, A ZOOMTOWN INVENTION FOR SITUATIONS JUST LIKE THIS. IT'S ALL PLANNING, PRISCILLA!

YOU PLANNED THIS LIKE NIXON PLANNED WATERGATE. FORGET IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'D SHOOT US DOWN!

THAT'S IT. HERE, LET ME HELP YOU..

WATCH THE HANDS, BUSTER!

DID I TELL YOU THE NIGHTMELON IS A HYDROGEN BALLOON?

